

Testimony of

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Before the

Education Committee

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Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

Connecticut continues to ask its educators to take on more responsibility in supporting our students, from teaching virtually during the pandemic to addressing the growing social-emotional needs of our students, and we always step up. However, I see dedicated, amazing teachers leave the profession year after year because of the frustration with inadequate salaries and strained working conditions. The strength of our state's public education will erode if we do not address this issue. This legislation is a pivotal step in providing the support we need to ensure we recruit and retain the highest quality educators.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

